

**2003-47**

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To Whom It May Concern:

The proposed Supreme Court Rule No. 2003-47 is an insult to every worker in Michigan. There are many reasons why this proposed rule is wrong, not only constitutionally, but also morally. Most companies knew in the 1930s that asbestos exposure eventually killed people. These companies knew this when some of their employees of only ten or fifteen years began to complain of shortness of breath, chronic coughing and chest pains. These companies knew that their product was harmful and yet did nothing about it. These companies also had an alternative to asbestos, which we use today, and that is fiberglass. The problem with fiberglass then was that it was too expensive. So the companies once again thought of themselves and their wallets rather than the health and safety of their employees. It wasn't until the federal government stepped in to ban asbestos and asbestos containing products in the 1970s that brought attention and knowledge to this dangerous product, which forced companies who manufactured, supplied and/or distributed asbestos containing products to stop producing asbestos.

These employees who were exposed to asbestos, also known as taxpayers, are either retired or are struggling to keep working. A majority of these employees have already been shafted on numerous occasions. Some have lost their lives because of asbestos exposure. Some have lost their promised health care insurance and benefits. Some have lost their good health. While others have lost a majority of their pensions. To take away their constitutional right to a trial by jury is raping the American working-class of their rights.

The facts are obviously clear. These companies who manufactured, supplied, and/or distributed asbestos containing products are in fault. These companies had their chance to right their wrong, but did nothing instead. The proposed Supreme Court Rule No. 2003-47 is morally and constitutionally wrong. It is a low and deceitful attempt by the asbestos industry and the law firms who represent companies of the asbestos industry to exempt themselves of responsibility and liability.

For the sake of respect for the United States Constitution, please do not deny deserving victims of the right to a trial by jury.

Concerned College Student,

Melissa S. Londry